

a ball head with a ball stud extending from the ball head, the ball head being received in the joint housing and the ball stud extending outward of the first axial end of the joint housing, a gap being formed between the ball head and the joint housing adjacent the ball stud at the first axial end of the joint housing;

a bearing shell received in the joint housing for supporting the ball head for tilting relative to the joint housing;

a housing cover for closing the second axial end of the joint housing; and

structure interposed between the housing cover and at least a portion of the bearing shell and acting upon the portion of the bearing shell to urge the portion of the bearing shell toward the first axial end of the joint housing and, in response to wear of the portion of the bearing shell, to wedge the portion of the bearing shell into the gap,

the bearing shell including separate and distinct first and second parts, the first part being an upper shell and the second part being a lower shell,

the upper shell, which is located further from the first axial end of the joint housing than the lower shell, including a collar that is wedged between the housing cover and a shoulder of the joint housing and prevents movement of the upper shell relative to the joint housing.

Please cancel claim 26.

Please amend claim 27 as follows:

27. (Amended) The ball-and-socket joint as claimed in claim 29 wherein the collar includes deformable areas, the deformable areas of the collar enabling a combination of the upper shell, the spring element, and the lower shell to be adapted for use with joint housings of varying tolerances.